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May 21, 2001

The Honorable Senator Mike DeWine
Member of the Senate Judiciary Committee
140 Russell Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator DeWine

A few weeks ago my sister called to tell me that President Bush nominated Jeff Sutton to serve on the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals. I was thrilled to hear the news.

While working as Solicitor General for the State of Ohio, Jeff represented me in a lawsuit the Ohio Civil Rights Commission brought against Case Western Reserve University on my behalf. I sought but was denied admission to the Case Western medical school. I alleged then, as I continue to believe now, that the school denied my application for one impermissible reason: I'm blind. The Ohio Civil Rights Commission agreed with me. After a thorough investigation, the Commission determined that I was otherwise qualified for admission and that the school could make reasonable accommodations to enable me to pursue training to become a psychiatrist.

The case worked its way through the Ohio courts and ultimately landed in the Ohio Supreme Court. It was at this point that I first met Jeff Sutton. Working for the State, Jeff took my case on, firmly convinced I had been wronged. I recall with much pride just how committed Jeff was to my cause. He believed in my position. He cared and listened and wanted badly to win for me. I recall well sitting in the courtroom of the Ohio Supreme Court listening to Jeff present my case. It was then that I realized just how fortunate I was to have a lawyer of Jeff's caliber so devoted to working for me and the countless of others with both similar disabilities and dreams.

Although I ultimately fell short in the courts, Jeff Sutton stood firm by my side. My experience confirmed what President Bush understands: Our nation would be greatly served with Jeff Sutton on the federal bench.

Sincerely yours,



Cheryl A. Fischer